



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



March 17, 2020

File ID: 20-0096

TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING PROPOSALS AND AWARDING AN AGREEMENT WITH FLYING LION, INC TO SUPPORT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DRONE AS A FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The City of Chula Vista issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for companies to support the Police Department's Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program. As a result of RFP process, the Police Department has selected Flying Lion, Inc. to provide DFR services.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION

Background

In December 2015, the Police Department formed the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Committee to study the use of the technology in its public safety operations. UAS Committee members met dozens of times to study best practices, policies, and procedures regarding the use of UAS technology in law enforcement. A special focus of the team's research was an effort to address concerns about public trust, civil liberties, and the public's right to privacy during the operation of CVPD UAS systems.

Prior to implementing its UAS Program, CVPD discussed its plan for UAS operations in the media, in public forums, and in posted information about the project on the CVPD website. This outreach included a

mechanism for the public to contact or email the UAS Team to comment on CVPD's UAS policy, or to express concerns or provide feedback. It is important to note that, out of respect for civil liberties and personal privacy, CVPD's UAS Policy specifically prohibits the use of UAS Systems for general surveillance or general patrol operations. After exhaustive planning and research, CVPD activated its UAS Program in the summer of 2017 to support tactical operations by CVPD first responders.

Beginning on October 22, 2018, with strong support from the community, the Police Department began deploying drones from the rooftop of the Police Department Headquarters to 911 calls and other reports of emergency incidents such as crimes in progress, fires, traffic accidents, and reports of dangerous subjects. This unique concept of operations (CONOPS) for drones developed out of a partnership between CVPD and Cape Productions, Inc. CVPD and Cape are part of the San Diego Integration Pilot Project (IPP) Team, selected as one of only 10 teams among hundreds of applicants as part of the FAA's IPP. The IPP is a federal initiative designed to help integrate drones into the National Air Space (NAS). CVPD's CONOPS is called Drone as a First Responder (DFR), and it is a transformational method of policing that has demonstrated the ability to increase officer and community safety and reduce overall police response times. DFR provides the ability to see what is going on at an incident before emergency personnel arrive on scene. In addition to the overhead perspective that traditional air support has always provided, DFR allows a trained incident commander to "virtually" arrive on scene first, sometimes minutes before officers are in harm's way. The drone has a powerful on-board camera that streams HD video back to the Department's real-time crime center where the Teleoperator, who is a trained critical incident manager, not only controls the drone remotely, but communicates with the units in the field giving them information and tactical intelligence about what they are responding to. The system also streams the video feed to the cell phones of the first responders, supervisors, and command staff so they too can see exactly what the drone is seeing.

In addition, CVPD is the first and only police department in the nation to test and successfully use Live911. This revolutionary software developed in partnership with HigherGround allows the Teleoperator, and soon officers in the field, the ability to listen live to incoming 911 calls in real time. The audio of a call between a citizen and a dispatcher contains critical information. The Teleoperator is able to launch based upon what he or she hears during the ongoing 911 call and is often able to have the drone arrive on scene before the officers on the ground even realize the incident is occurring. This Live911 system supports the already robust and efficient CVPD police dispatching system, providing an added layer of efficiency to serve the community.

The DFR Program continues to expand its capabilities with the ultimate goal of providing the ability to respond to any location in the city within minutes. In May 2019, Chula Vista Police was authorized to fly Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS waiver). This allowed the drones to fly up to 3 miles in any direction from the launch site (within city limits). Moving from a 1 mile flight radius to 3 miles increased the area of service exponentially.

In August 2019, Chula Vista partnered with Paradise Valley Hospital and Rush Properties to add an additional launch site. The site is about 2 miles south of the Police Department and provides the ability to cover the entire west portion of the City. This area is roughly 30% of the geographic area of the City. But, due to its density and commercial activity, it is responsible for about 70% of the priority calls for service. CVPD has

plans to expand DFR to the east in the near future and ideally cover the vast majority of the geographic area of Chula Vista.

Also in August 2019, through the tremendous generosity of the Chula Vista Police Foundation, CVPD was able to purchase two new DJI Matrice 210 V2 Drones. These new drones were a significant improvement to the operation and provided increase range and capability.

In the first year of DFR, the drones responded to over 1,000 separate incidents, and the program continues to serve the residents of Chula Vista by reducing response times and increasing safety.

Chief Roxana Kennedy has called DFR one her most important tools in improving situational awareness, de-escalating dangerous situations, and protecting her officers and community. DFR, along with Live911, are just two of several components in the Chief’s Public Safety Innovation (PSI) Initiative. The PSI Initiative is an example of the commitment of CVPD in supporting the City’s role as a leader in the international Smart Cities movement.

UAS/DFR Program Organizational Chart



Current Staffing & Aircraft Positioning

Currently, the Police Department staffs the DFR Program, (7) days per week, (10) hours per day. Current staffing and aircraft positioning are as follows:

Launch Site One – Chula Vista Police Department Headquarters

- (1) Pilot in Command/Drone Technician (Visual Observer – VO)
- (1) Teleoperator (TO)/Police Officer
- DJI Matrice 210 V2 equipped with a Z30 zoom camera and an XT thermal camera (primary aircraft)
- DJI Matrice 200 V1 equipped with a Z30 zoom camera (backup aircraft)

Launch Site Two – Bayview Hospital

- (1) Pilot in Command/Drone Technician (Visual Observer – VO)
- DJI Matrice 210 V2 equipped with a Z30 zoom camera and an XT thermal camera (primary aircraft)
- DJI Matrice 200 V1 equipped with a Z30 zoom camera (backup aircraft)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Pilot in Command services

On December 4, 2019, the City issued a Request for Proposal (# P15-19/20) for Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC) services to support the Police Department’s Drone as a First Responder program. Specifically, the Police Department was seeking contractors to provide Remote Pilot in Command/Drone Technician services, to ensure safety of drone flights, along with setup and takedown of drone equipment. Contracting for Pilot in Command (or Drone Technician) services is a more cost-effective solution to operate the DFR program, rather than using Police personnel. The contracted Pilots in Command would coordinate directly with Police staff assigned to the drone program.

Thirty-five companies were notified of the RFP, five companies attended the pre-proposal meeting on December 18, and the following four companies submitted a proposal:

- 1) Action Drone
- 2) CODE 3 Drone
- 3) Flying Lion, Inc.
- 4) FLYMOTION

A selection committee consisted of a Police Lieutenant who serves as the DFR Commander, consultant hired to provide strategic project management of the Department’s DFR program, and a Police Sergeant who supervises the DFR Program. Each committee member evaluated the four proposals for responsiveness and determined the proposer’s ability to meet the City’s requirements. The selection committee conducted a thorough evaluation, including in-depth review of the written proposals, past experience with other agencies, and proposed cost of services. In coordination with the Finance Department, the Police Department recommends to award an agreement with Flying Lion, Inc. as a result of the RFP process. Along with demonstrated experience, Flying Lion proposed the lowest cost, which includes the possibility of expanding to other launch locations. The Police and Finance Departments believe that this company is experienced and staffed in a manner such that they can deliver the services required to meet the City’s needs. The proposed rates for Flying Lion, Inc. are shown in the following table.

Remote Pilot In Command (RPIC) Services	Rate
Initial Location 70 hours per week (daylight hours)	\$40.44 per hour
Subsequent locations 70 hours per week (daylight hours)	\$37.52 per hour
Subsequent hours rate (hours above 10 per day)	\$45.99 per hour
Non-flight Rate (due to adverse weather or equipment failure) (minimum of 4 hours compensation for any non-flight day)	\$28.00 per hour
Training Rate (up to 10 students)	\$1,000 per day
Consulting/Training (non-flying) Rate	\$200.00 per hour

During non-flight times, the Remote Pilot In Command will perform drone inspections and prep for repair, logging/updating administrative records, testing/updating systems, and updating operating procedures/checklists.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision- maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will award an agreement with Flying Lion, Inc to support the Police Department's Drone as a First Responder Program. The cost for Remote Pilot in Command/Drone Technician services during the current fiscal year is \$70,944, funded by Asset Seizure Funds. This cost for the current fiscal year has already been included in the supplies and services category of the Police Grants Section of the Federal Grants Fund, resulting in no net fiscal impact to the General Fund.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

The initial contract term with Flying Lion, Inc is April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (to coincide with City's fiscal year), which is funded through Asset Seizure Funds. The City has an option to extend the Agreement up to four (4) one-year additional terms for a total contract term of five (5) years, up to June 30, 2025.

At time of contract award, the Police Department currently has two launch locations, but plans to expand to three launch locations in the near future. The DFR program may expand to four launch locations to provide full coverage of the City. The contractual cost per launch location is shown in the table below.

	1 launch location	2 launch locations	3 launch locations	4 launch locations
Annual Cost of Pilot In Command contractual services*	\$147,202	\$283,774	\$420,347	\$556,920

* Note: Cost assumes 70 hours per week per location

Funding for the contractual costs beyond June 30, 2021 has not been committed. The Police Department will continue seeking funding opportunities such as Asset Seizure Funds, grant awards and private sector partnerships. The program will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and will be considered as part of the annual budget process. The goal of the Police Department is to work with the Finance Department to identify ongoing funding for 4 launch locations and to sustain the Pilot In Command program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: RFP P15-19/20 for UAS DFR Program Support

Attachment 2: Agreement with Flying Lion, Inc. to provide UAS DFR Program Support

Staff Contact: Jonathan Alegre, Police Department